

**CITY OF GAUTIER  
MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Samantha Abell, City Manager  
**From:** Patty Huffman, Grants and Projects Manager  
**Through:** Chandra Nicholson, Economic Development and Planning Director  
**Date:** March 11, 2014  
**Subject:** 2014 MDOT Urban Youth Corps Grant Application

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**REQUEST:**

The Economic Development and Planning Department requests authorization to submit a grant application to the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) for the 2014 Urban Youth Corps Program, if MDOT receives funding for the program again this year.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Urban Youth Corps Program is a youth employment and training service program which was originally established to: (1) offer meaningful full-time or productive summer work for individuals between the ages of 16 and 25 in transportation-related settings; (2) give the participants a mix of work experience and on-the-job training that includes a minimum of 10% of the participants' time for basic life skills, education, training, safety, etc.; and (3) provide the youths with an opportunity to develop citizenship values and skills through service to their communities and the State of Mississippi. If funded, the City would hire approximately eight youths to work ten weeks during the summer to beautify the City's corridors, main thoroughfares and entrance sign landscaping. Typically, the City would be reimbursed up to \$35,000 for the project and would have to provide at least 20% in matching funds and/or in-kind payment through administrative and supervisory costs. The City has met this requirement in the past through in-kind supervision.

**DISCUSSION:**

The City of Gautier has received Urban Youth Corps funding in 2011, 2012, and 2013. The participants provided valuable service to the City and received weekly trainings including life skills training, landscape design, safety training, CPR and First Aid, and leadership development.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Due to the short turnaround time usually given between the announcement of the grant opportunity and the application deadline, it is recommended that City Council authorize submission of a grant application in order to be prepared if/when MDOT receives notification of the funding availability. The Economic Development and Planning staff therefore recommends that City Council authorize submission of an Urban Youth Corps grant application to the Mississippi Department of Transportation for up to \$35,000.00 if MDOT receives funding for the program for 2014.

The City Council may:

1. Authorize submission of a grant application for the 2014 Urban Youth Corps Program if MDOT receives funding for the program; or
2. Disapprove the proposed request.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

N/A